

## Save the Last Word for Me

This discussion technique helps the adult learner “see” the passage meaning from others’ points of view and allows them to respond to others about a piece of the reading that was important to them.

### Steps:

1. Organize large group into smaller groups of 4-6 participants to allow for meaningful dialogue and timely completion of the learning activity. Assign groups to corresponding tables/area for later dialogue among their “mini-group”.
2. Distribute copies of a professional article or other material to be read. As the adult learners read, they should highlight/underline statements that they find interesting or statements they want to talk about. The statements may be thoughts that they agree or disagree with. The statements may be ideas that surprised, excited, or puzzled them. At a minimum, participants should highlight/underline a statement that corresponds to the number of participants in their group plus one.
3. After assigned reading has been completed, the groups are ready to dialogue around their highlighted/underlined statements. Dialogue begins with one person from the group sharing one of his/her statements. This person indicates to the group the page, section, and/or paragraph the statement can be found, so the rest of the group can follow along.
4. Person reads his/her statement to the group as they follow along, and then he/she **SAYS NOTHING MORE** (this is always difficult with one or more people and must be stated with emphasis).
5. The individual to his/her left responds to the opening statement. After he/she completes his/her thoughts on the statement, the person to his/her left responds to the original statement provided by the first person who still has not responded to his/her own statement. Sharing continues in a round robin, counter-clockwise fashion until the turn to speak to this statement returns to the original person who provided the statement for discussion initially, hence the title of this activity “Save the Last Word for Me.”
6. After the original person has the last word on his/her statement, the person to his/her left provides the next statement to the group and the process begins anew following the same process described above in steps 3-5.
7. After all or nearly all participants have shared a statement and have responded to others’ statements, the group has one person report out to the whole group a central learning piece from the assigned reading to the whole group.